



THE SAVVY CONSUMER COLUMN

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Division of Consumer Affairs Reminds Tennesseans of Lemon Law

Nashville, TN – If you are in the market for a new or used car, the Tennessee Division of Consumer Affairs warns that you should be familiar with any warranties prior to making your purchase.

When purchasing a used car, be sure to inspect the vehicle and get all agreements in writing. If possible, get a mechanic you trust to inspect it. Also, be sure to ask whether the vehicle is being sold “as is” or with a warranty. If you purchase a vehicle “as is,” you, as the consumer, are responsible for all necessary repairs including those required before the vehicle will pass any emissions testing for registration purposes. If the vehicle comes with a warranty, ask what percentage of the repair costs a dealer will pay under the warranty.

If you experience problems with a vehicle that you purchased, please note that Tennessee’s Lemon Law applies only to a new motor vehicle:

- with a defect or condition that substantially impairs it, and
- whose manufacturer or authorized agent cannot repair it after three attempts, or
- that is out of service for repairs for a cumulative total of 30 or more days during the term of protection.

Also beware of a commonly held myth – that a car buyer has three days to return the vehicle to the dealer after purchasing it. The truth is this: Once you sign a contract, it is a binding agreement. You cannot return the vehicle unless it is a stipulation of the contract or it is a mutual agreement of both parties.

For more tips on purchasing a vehicle or information regarding the Lemon Law, please contact the Division of Consumer Affairs at 1-800-342-8385 or visit www.tn.gov/consumer.

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